



TAEP Producer Diversification Program

Honey Bee Criteria

For Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014

Program Criteria:

- This information is current as of **April 12, 2013** and is a supplement to the TAEP 2013 Application and Guidelines.
- Minimum requirements to participate: **(3)** three years beekeeping experience and **(10)** ten existing colonies. Applicants must report experience and number of hives in the application proposal to be eligible.
- Applicants seeking cost share on construction of a TDA licensed and inspected Honey Processing Facility must have **(5)** five years beekeeping experience and **(30)** thirty existing colonies.
- **Producers** are eligible for the following cost share percentages for qualified expenses:
 - **Standard Producer** - 35% cost share up to a maximum of \$10,000.
 - **Master Producer** - 50% cost share up to a maximum of \$15,000 for producers meeting special requirements.
- The proposed activity must encompass quality expansion or improvement of pollination or honey production. The eligible categories are:
 - Apiary expansion
 - Honey processing equipment
 - Pollination services
 - Honey Processing Facility

Regulatory Requirements:

- Apiaries must be registered with the State of Tennessee **at the time of application**. Contact **Mike Studer** with the **TN Department of Agriculture—Regulatory Services** at (615) 837-5342 or Mike.Studer@tn.gov
- If you pack or sell more than 150 gallons of honey per year, you must be licensed and inspected by the State of Tennessee as a food manufacturing facility. Contact **Ronald Murphy** at the **TN Dept. Of Agriculture – Regulatory Services** at (615) 837-5153 or Ronald.Murphy@tn.gov. You can also contact Mike Studer as well.

Experience Criteria:

- Producers must have a minimum of three years of experience to participate in the cost share program. Five years of experience is required for a Honey Processing Facility cost share project. Experience must be hands-on experience working with hives (colonies).
- If the producer has worked with other beekeepers and mentors in working directly with bees, he or she may count this hands-on experience towards the requirements. The producer should list the beekeeper worked with, along with their contact information, and time worked to qualify towards experience. Producers do not have to have had ownership of hives for at least three years to be eligible. However, producers must have current ownership of at least 10 colonies.

Master Producer Cost Share – Special Requirements for 50% Cost Share:

Who is eligible?

The requirement for **50%** Cost Share is the completion of the **UT BeeMaster Course**. Applicants may apply for 50% if they have completed or plan to attend the course. The course must be completed by the reimbursement deadline. TAEP staff will coordinate with UT Extension to obtain record of your attendance. University of Tennessee Extension (Instructor: John Skinner) provides the **BeeMaster Course** in regional locations across the state. The course is a 3 day course with over 20 hours worth of training. Visit <http://bees.tennessee.edu> or call (865) 974-0209 for information on how to register for the course.

Note: Course completion does not have to be recent (e.g. 2011-2014.) As long as you have completed the course, you are eligible for 50% cost share.

Examples of Eligible Items:

Apiary Expansion:

Beekeeping Supplies

- Queens: (1) Queen per new hive — Requeening of existing hives is not eligible
- Package Bees
- Nucleus Colonies (Honey Bees & Boxes)

Hive or Super Equipment

- Deep Supers (Hive Bodies) 9 5/8"
- Illinois, Western, Medium Supers 6 5/8"
- Shallow Supers 6 1/4"

Frames (Not for Maintenance of Existing Colonies)

- Deep Supers (Hive Bodies) 9 5/8"

- Illinois, Western, Medium Supers 6 5/8"
- Shallow Supers 6 1/4"

Foundation Wax (Not for Maintenance of Existing Colonies)

- Deep Supers (Hive Bodies) 9 5/8"
- Illinois, Western, Medium Supers 6 5/8"
- Shallow Supers 6 1/4"

Hive Accessories (For Increase, Not Maintenance)

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| • Telescoping Covers, Western or Flat Cover | • Entrance Reducers |
| • Bottom Boards | • Metal Frame Spacers |
| • Division Board Feeders | • Metal Rabbits |
| • Entrance Feeder | • Eyelets |
| • Top Feeders | • Frame Wire |
| • Queen Excluders | • Pollen Traps |

Honey Processing Equipment:

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|---|--------------------------|
| • Extractors (motorized recommended) | • Strainers |
| • Gates for Honey Storage | • Bottling Bucket Kit |
| • Containers (> 5 Gallon and usually Stainless Steel) | • Uncappers |
| • Uncapping Knives | • Wax Melters |
| • Capping Scratchers | • Honey Dispensing Tanks |
| • Immersion Heaters | • Honey Filters |
| • Band Heaters | • Honey Pumps |
| • Drum Handling Truck | • Honey Bottling Valve |
| | • Honey Refractometer |

Pollination Services:

- All items and equipment listed above are eligible under the pollination service.
- Trailers —size cannot be larger than needed for the number of colonies.

Honey Processing Facility:

- Building Materials to construct a licensed facility
- Labor for Construction (contractor)

Examples of Ineligible Items:

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|---|---------------------|
| • Used Equipment & Materials | • Smoker Materials |
| • Smokers | • Hive Tools |
| • Smoker Bellows | • Maxant Hive Tools |

- Section Scraping Tools
- Bee Brush
- Frame Grip(s)
- Frame Cleaner
- Labels
- Ross Rounds
- Comb Cutters
- Swarm Traps
- Observation Hives
- Frame Spacing Tool
- Frame Fixers
- Frame Holders
- Electric Embedder
- Frame/Form Board
- Coveralls
- Sweet Bands
- Sting Kill Swabs
- Veils
- Bee Hats
- Beekeeping Gloves
- Brood Builder
- Medications
- Diagnostic Kits
- Small Hive Beetle Traps
- Queen Paint Markers
- Queen Cell Protectors
- Plastic Queen Cell Cups
- Grafting Tools
- Mailing Cages
- Queen Clipping Scissors
- Bee Escapes
- Bee Go (Product for moving bees out of supers)
- Fume Boards
- Honey Jars
- Honey Labels
- Jar Caps
- Honey Containers (buckets)
- Corn Syrup
- Sugar

Contact:

- For more information regarding the TAEP Producer Diversification Program – contact **Justin Bryant** at 615-837-5323 or Producer.Diversification@tn.gov
- For information regarding TDA Market Development & Tennessee Honey – contact **Linda Shelton** at 615-837-5345 or Linda.Shelton@tn.gov
- Check for updates at www.tn.gov/taep or 1-800-342-8206